



**U S Army Corps
of Engineers**
Huntington District

Public Notice

In reply refer to Public Notice No.

Issuance Date: 14 April 2005

200401588

Stream:

Closing Date: 14 May 2005

U/T Big Walnut Creek

Please address all comments and inquiries to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

ATTN: CELRH-OR-E Public Notice No. (*reference above*)

502 Eighth Street

Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Phone: (304) 399-5210

PUBLIC NOTICE: The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

REGULATORY PROGRAM: Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the Corps Regulatory Program.

SECTION 10: The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States (U.S.). The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

SECTION 404: The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This notice serves as the Corps of Engineers' request to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to act on Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the following application.

APPLICANT: Columbus Regional Airport Authority
4600 International Gateway
Columbus, Ohio 43219

LOCATION: The project area is located along the west side of Rickenbacker International Airport, within unnamed tributaries of Big Walnut Creek and within wetlands adjacent to these tributaries, at State Route 42 and Township Road 753, near Lockbourne, Franklin and Pickaway Counties, Ohio. Longitude 82° 57' 04.78", Latitude 39° 48' 47.62"

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to place fill material in waters of the United States associated with the extension of Alum Creek Drive. The extended roadway would afford access to the proposed Norfolk-Southern railroad transfer yard (Intermodal Facility (IMF)). Under this proposal, Alum Creek Drive would be extended 3.4 miles to the south and west, around Rickenbacker International Airport by constructing a new roadway on a new alignment. The roadway would be constructed as four, 12-foot lanes with associated gutters and curbing.

Three streams and five wetland areas would be impacted from the proposal. These streams and wetland areas are components of the former Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base ditch system, designated as SD-25, and have been investigated by the Air Force under the Installation Restoration Program. This ditch system is contaminated with solvents and paints and has been nominated for the National Priorities List as detailed on the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database.

A total of 1,776 linear feet (lf) of three unnamed tributaries to Big Walnut Creek would be impacted by this proposal. Approximately 1,500 lf of Stream 2A/2B would be relocated immediately to the west of its existing location to accommodate the new road alignment. The existing stream channel would be filled utilizing clean earthen fill material obtained from the proposed relocation channel area. Stream JD-E would be filled and culverted, affecting 84 lf. Approximately 192 lf of Stream JD-I would be impacted from construction of a culverted road crossing. Proposed stream impacts are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Proposed Stream Impacts

Stream	Linear feet of Impact	Impact Type
Stream 2A/2B	1500	Stream Relocation
JD-E	84	Relocation/culvert extension
JD-I	192	Culvert placement
Total Stream Impact	1,776 lf	

Five wetland areas would be impacted from implementation of the proposal. These jurisdictional wetland areas have developed within man-made drainageways within the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base ditch system. Approximately 0.01 acres of Wetland JD-A would be filled to accommodate the proposed roadway. A portion of Wetland JD-B would be impacted from the placement of fill material and a proposed culvert. The proposed culvert would allow the continued flow of hydrology from this wetland to Stream JD-E. Wetlands JD-G and JD-H would be impacted by the construction of two culverted road crossings. Construction of these crossings would impact a total of 0.01 acres in both wetlands. Approximately 0.01 acres of Wetland JD-J would be impacted from the placement of a culvert. This culvert would allow the continued flow

of hydrology from this wetland to the relocated Stream 2A/2B. Proposed wetland impacts are summarized in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Proposed Wetland Impacts

Wetland	Acreage of Impact	Impact Type
JD-A	0.01	Fill Placement
JD-B	0.005	Fill Placement /culvert extension
JD-G	0.01	Culvert placement
JD-H	0.01	Culvert placement
JD-J	0.01	Culvert placement
Total Wetland Impact	0.045 acres	

The proposed IMF involves the movement of truck trailers and shipping containers by both highway and rail. The IMF would consist of approximately 8,700 linear feet of loading/unloading rail tracks, 1,340 trailer parking bays, and 218 ground stacking container bays. No waters of the US would be impacted for construction of the IMF.

Alternatives Analysis: A total of 0.045 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be filled as a result of the proposal. Construction of the proposal does not require access to or siting within wetlands to fulfill its basic purpose and is considered a non-water dependent activity. The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines state that for non-water dependent activities, practicable alternatives that do not involve wetlands are presumed to be available unless clearly demonstrated otherwise. All practicable alternatives not involving such discharges into special aquatic sites are presumed to have less adverse impacts to the aquatic system. The applicant is required to provide an alternative analysis that must overcome the presumption prior to receiving authorization for the placement of fill material.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for this project. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain certification from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES: A copy of this public notice will be furnished to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their review. The Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) is the lead Federal agency for this proposal. As such, FHWA is ultimately responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. On behalf of the applicant, ACS Group prepared the "Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Rickenbacker International Airport Facility in Harrison Township, Pickaway County, Ohio." To fulfill the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, this report was furnished to SHPO for review. Through letter dated March 9, 2005, the SHPO concurred there will be no historic properties affected by the proposed undertaking, with the condition for further consultation if the Duvall Homestead (PIC-0649-3) is acquired by the intermodal facility.

THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES: This project is located within the known or historic range of Indiana bat (endangered), bald eagle (E), Scioto madtom (endangered), northern riffleshell mussel (endangered), clubshell mussel (endangered), Eastern massasauga (proposed candidate species), rayed bean mussel (currently under evaluation for Federal Candidate species). As noted above, FHWA is the lead Federal agency for this project. FHWA is responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. To determine if the proposed project would have any affect on threatened or endangered species, the applicant has consulted the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Through letter dated September 15, 2004, the USFWS provided recommendations regarding the removal of potential Indiana bat habitat. Provided these recommendations are implemented, USFWS indicated there would be no adverse affect on this species. Due to the nature and location of the project, there would be no affect on the Scioto madtom, northern riffleshell mussel, clubshell mussel, and rayed bean mussel. Based on the habitat surveys conducted, the proposed project area does not contain suitable habitat for the Eastern massasauga; therefore, the proposed project would have no affect on this species.

PUBLIC INTEREST: Any person who has an interest, which may be adversely affected by the issuance of a permit, may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer on or before the expiration date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected by the activity.

Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. Written statements on these factors received in this office on or before the expiration date of this public notice will become a part of the record and will be considered in the final determination. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the

impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before the close of the comment period listed on page one of this Public Notice. Persons wishing to submit comments, objections or requests for public hearings concerning the

Corps of Engineers permit should write:

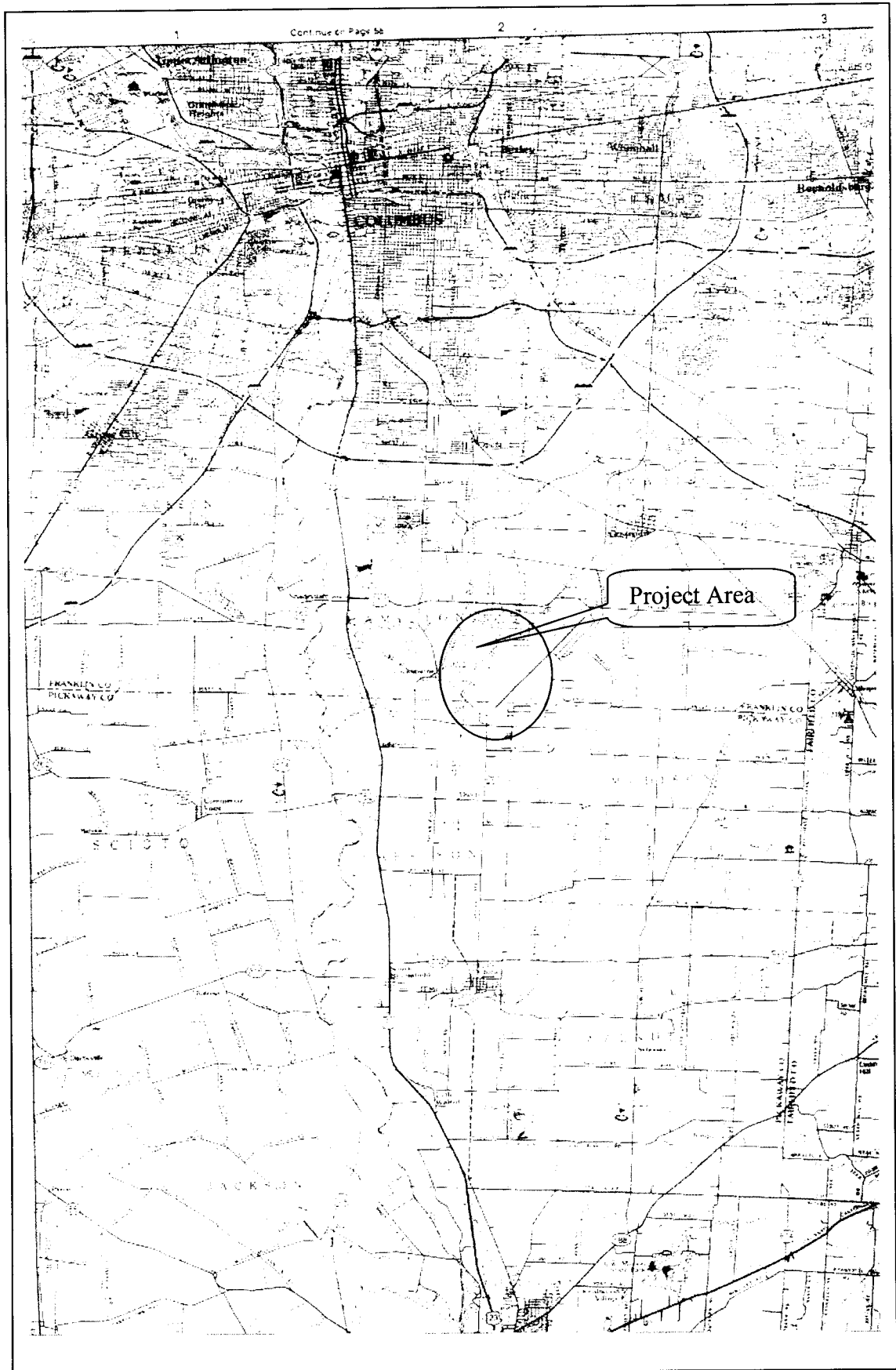
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CELRH-OR-F Public Notice No. 200401588
502 8th Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Please note, the names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice become part of our administrative record and, as such, are available to the public under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Thank you for your interest in our nation's water resources. If you have any questions concerning this public notice, please call Ms. Susan A. Fields of my staff at 304-399-5210.

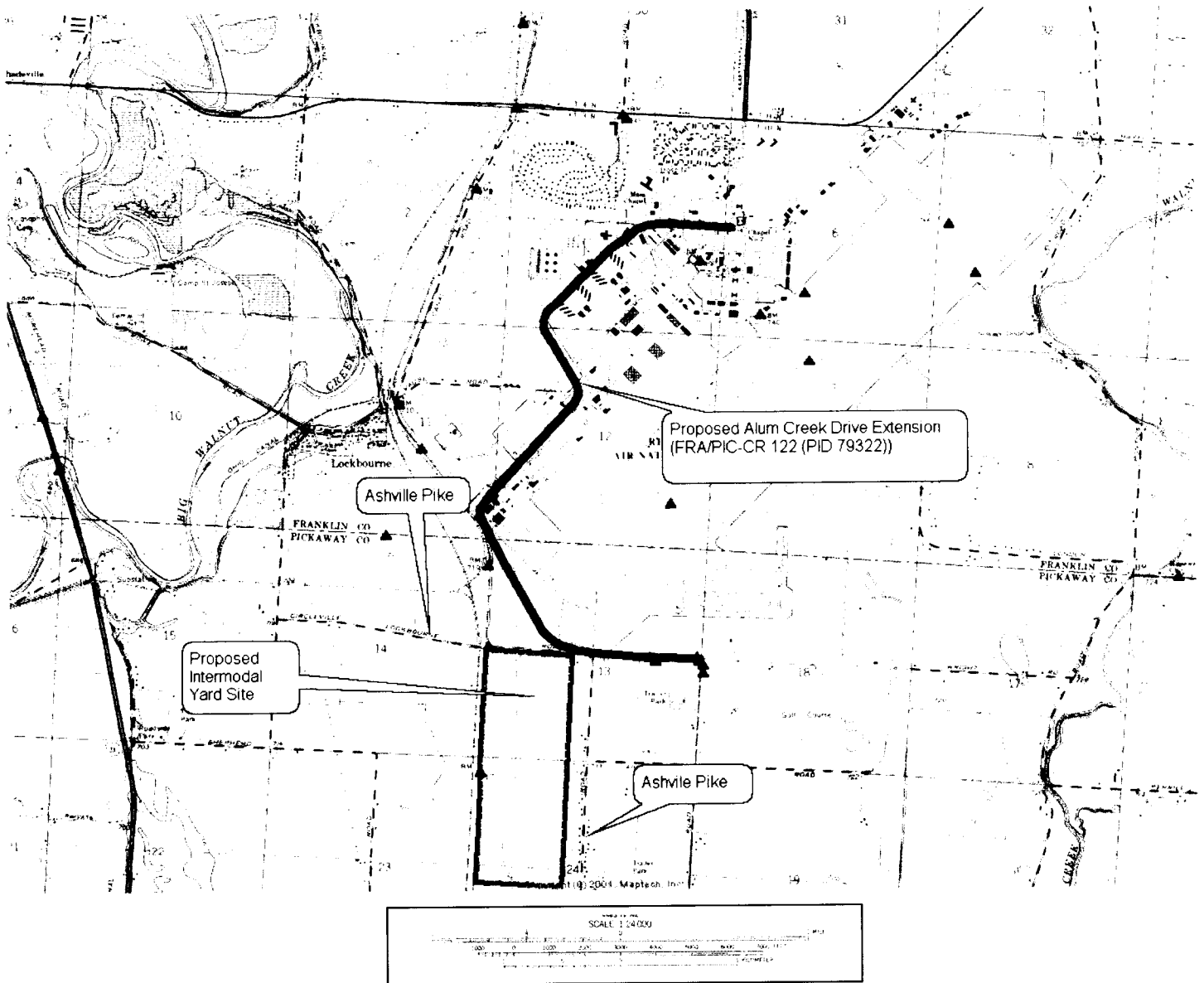


Ginger Mullins
Chief, Regulatory Branch

(O)



Lockbourne, Ohio
Quadrangle

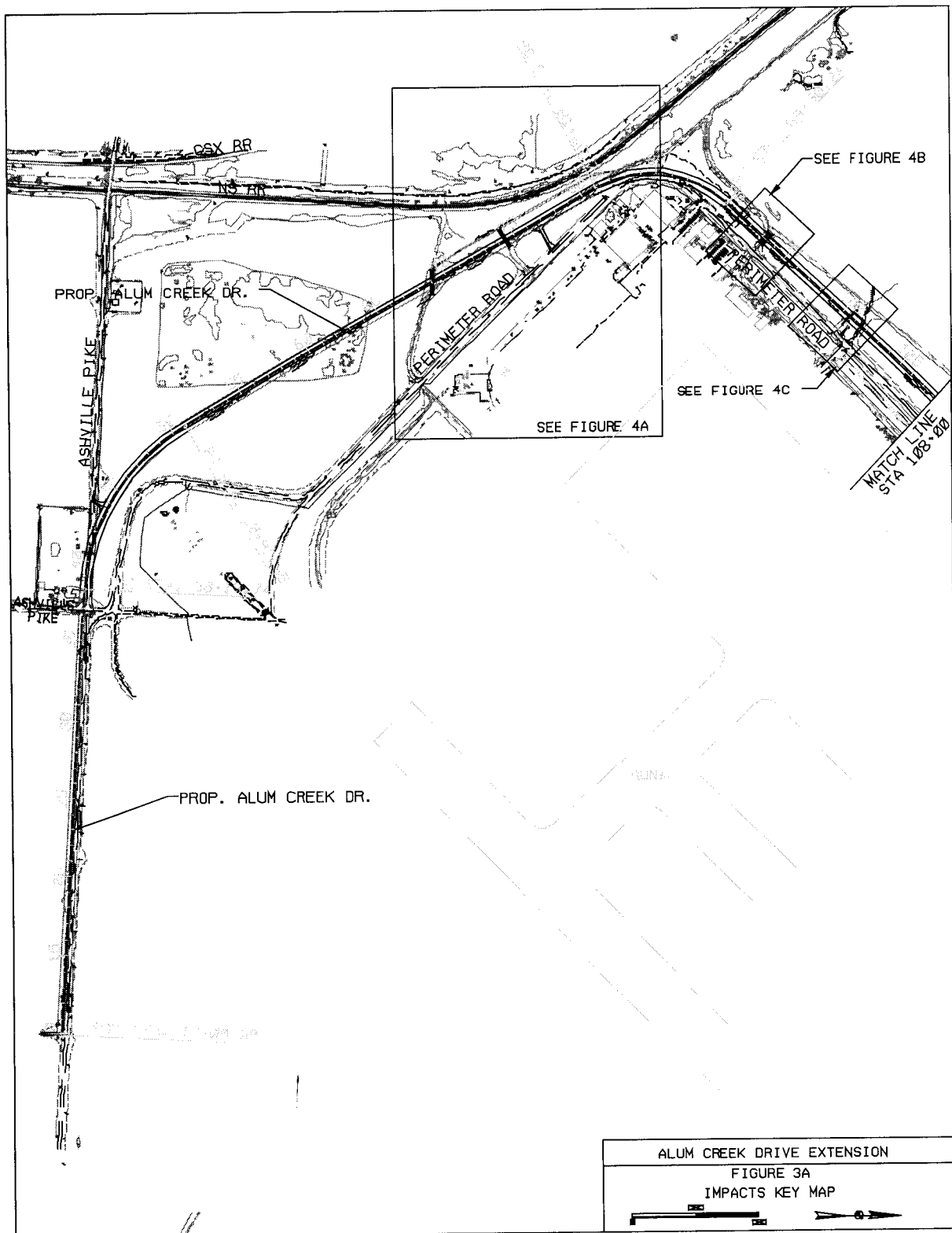


TRANSYSTEMS
CORPORATION
55 Public Square, Suite 1650, Cleveland, Ohio 44113
Phone: (216) 861-1780

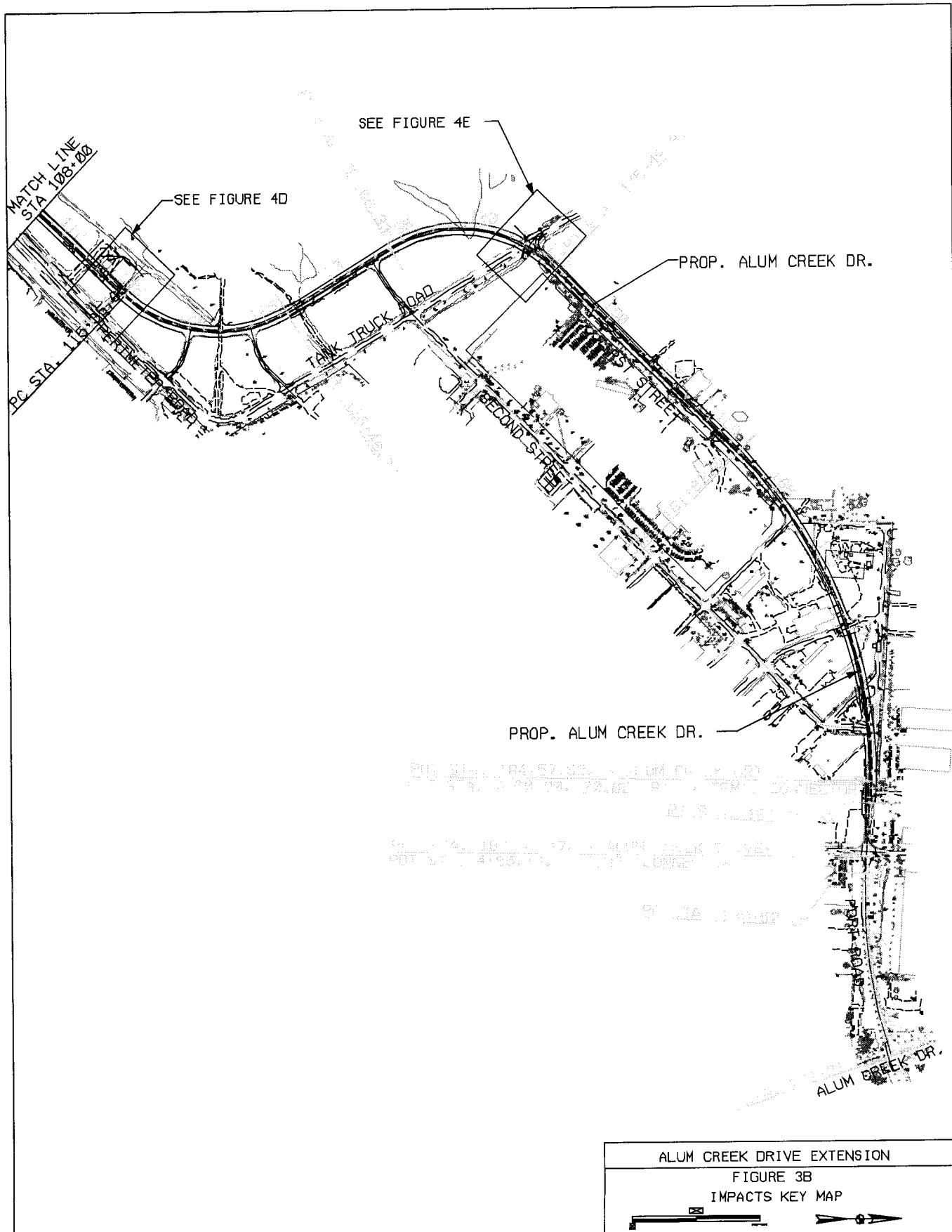
FRA/PIC-CR 122 (PID 79322)
(Alum Creek Drive Extension)
Individual §404 Permit Application

USGS Topographic Map

Alum Creek Drive Extension
200401588 – U/T Big Walnut Creek
Franklin & Pickaway Counties, OH
Plan View, Sheet 2 of 9

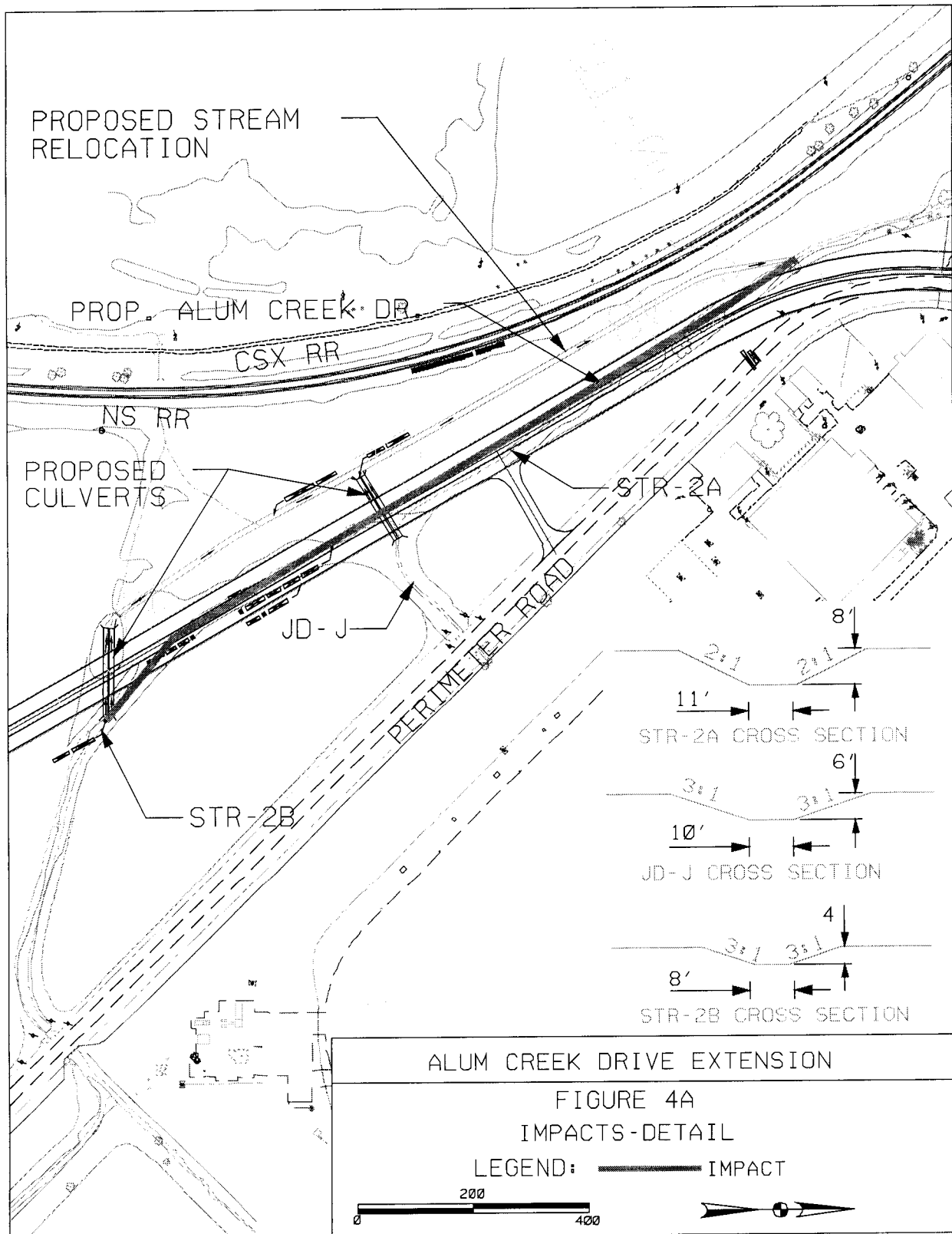


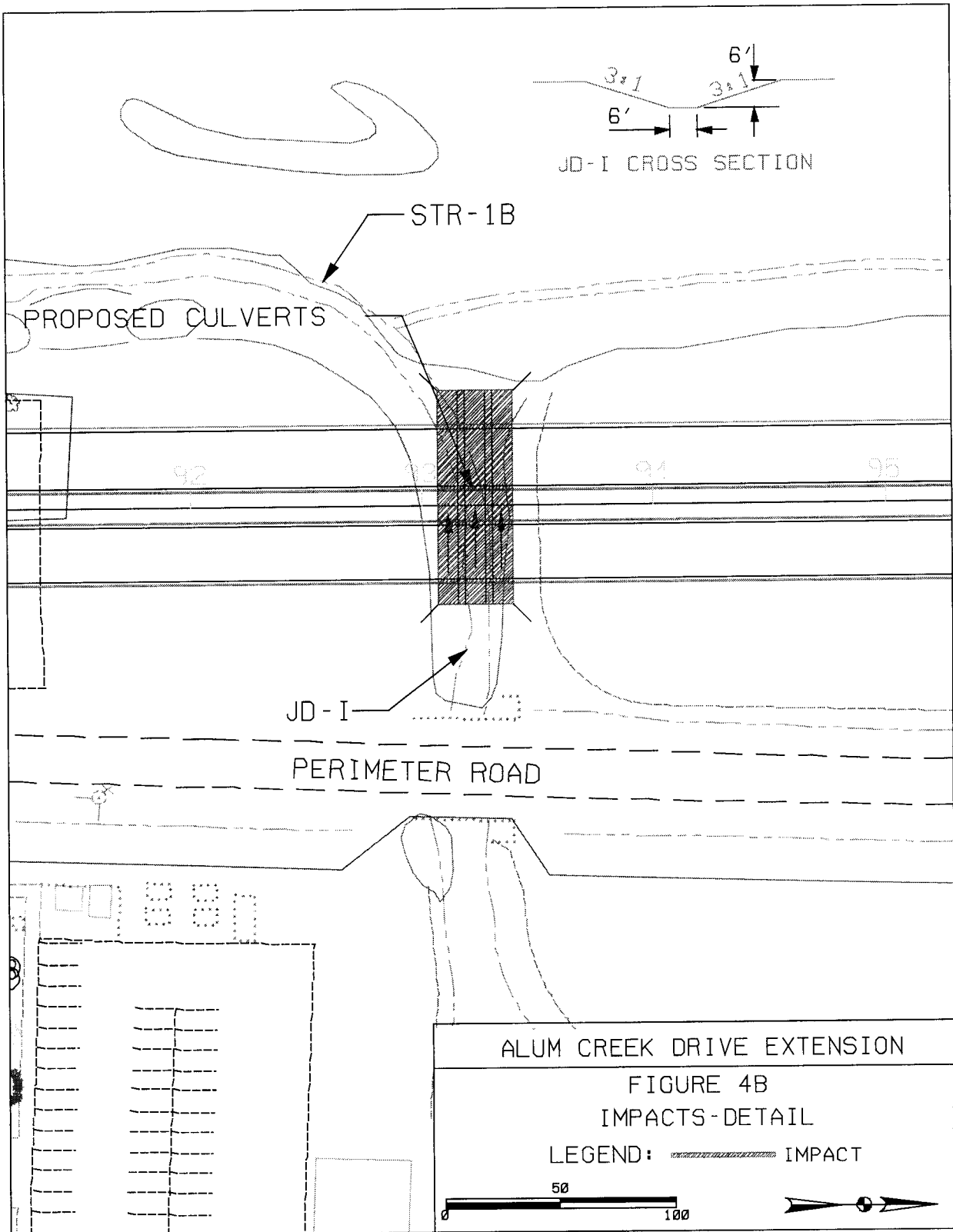
Alum Creek Drive Extension
 200401588 – U/T Big Walnut Creek
 Franklin & Pickaway Counties, OH
 Key Map A, Sheet 3 of 9



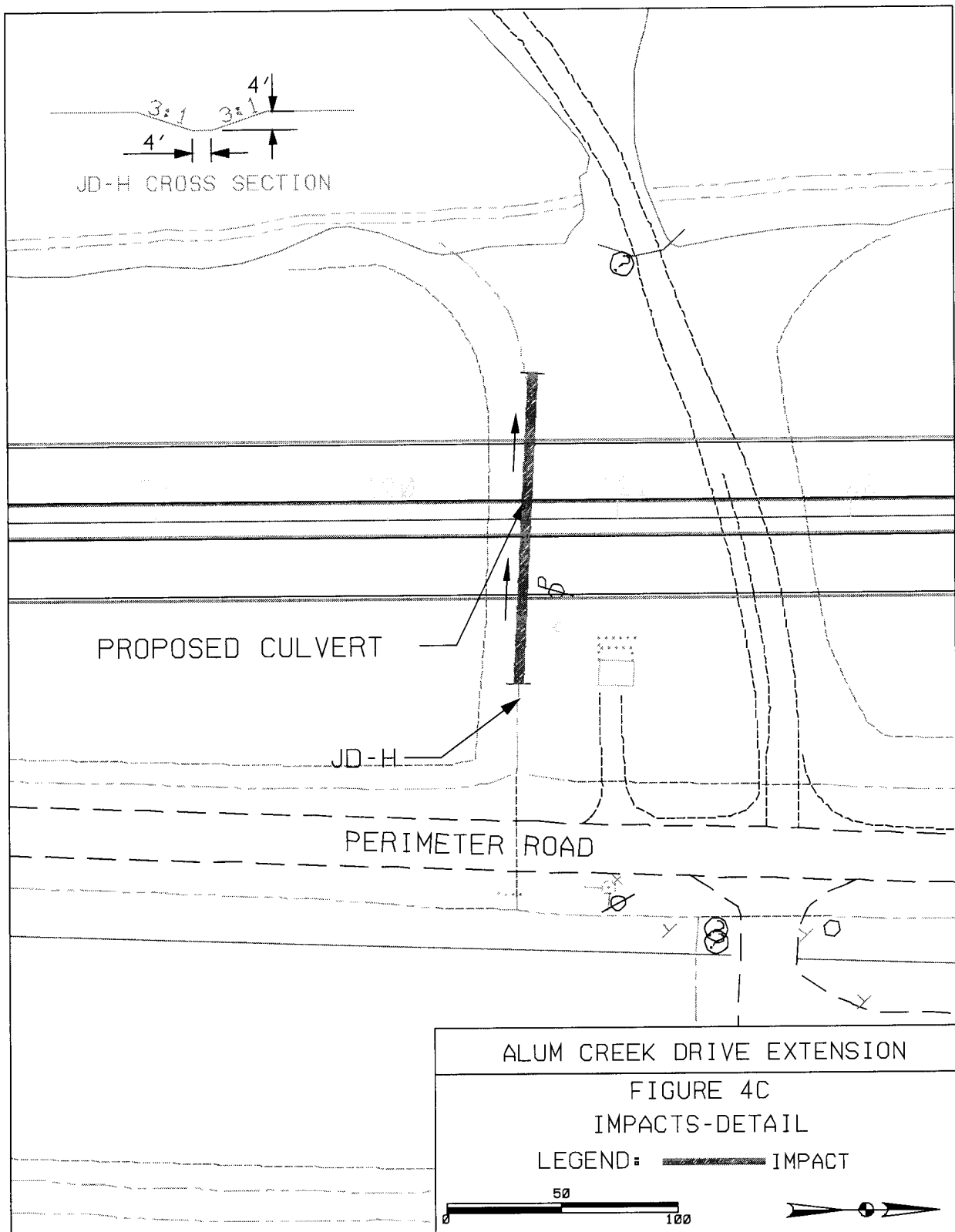
ALUM CREEK DRIVE EXTENSION	
FIGURE 3B	
IMPACTS KEY MAP	

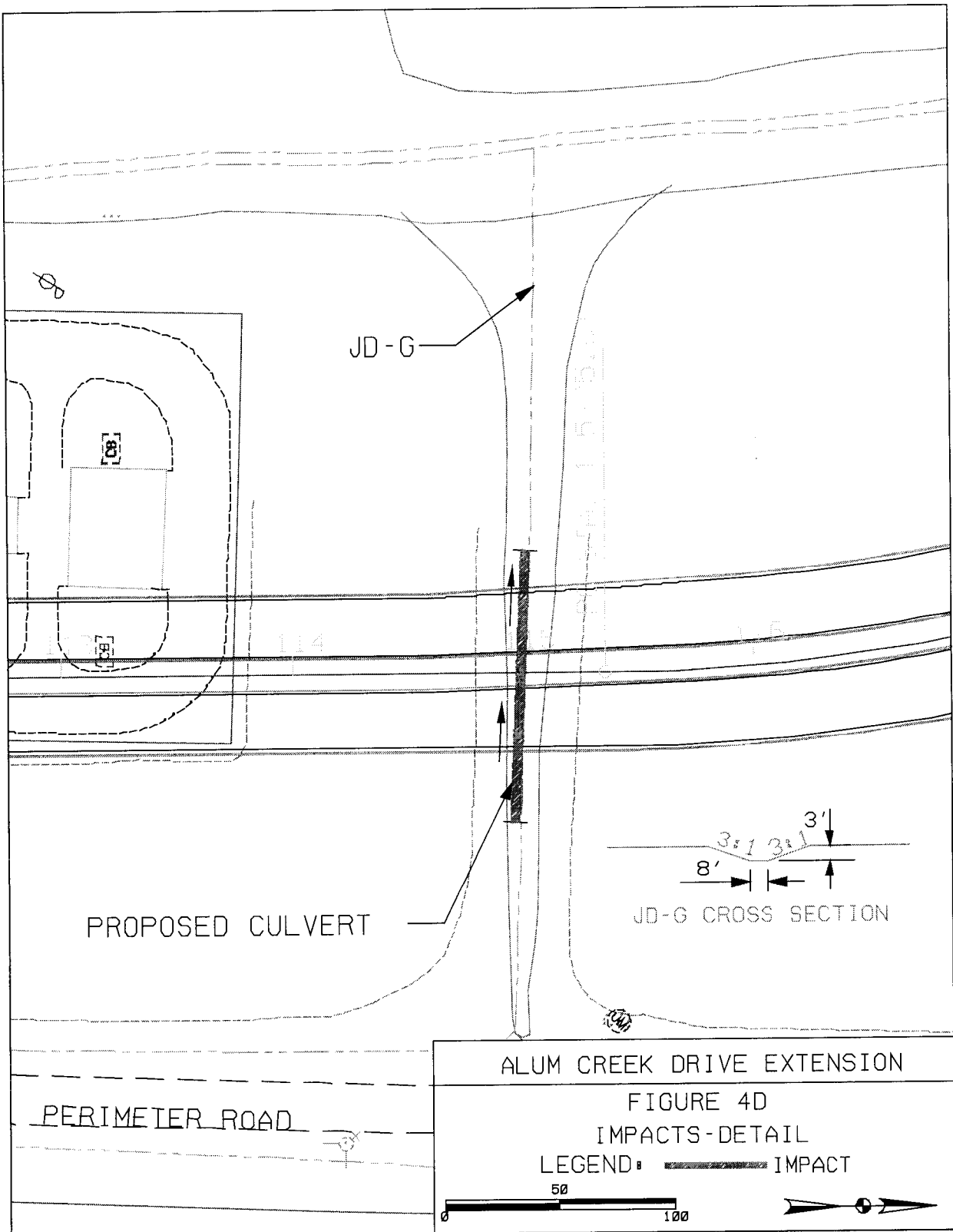
Alum Creek Drive Extension
 200401588 – U/T Big Walnut Creek
 Franklin & Pickaway Counties, OH
 Key Map B, Sheet 4 of 9

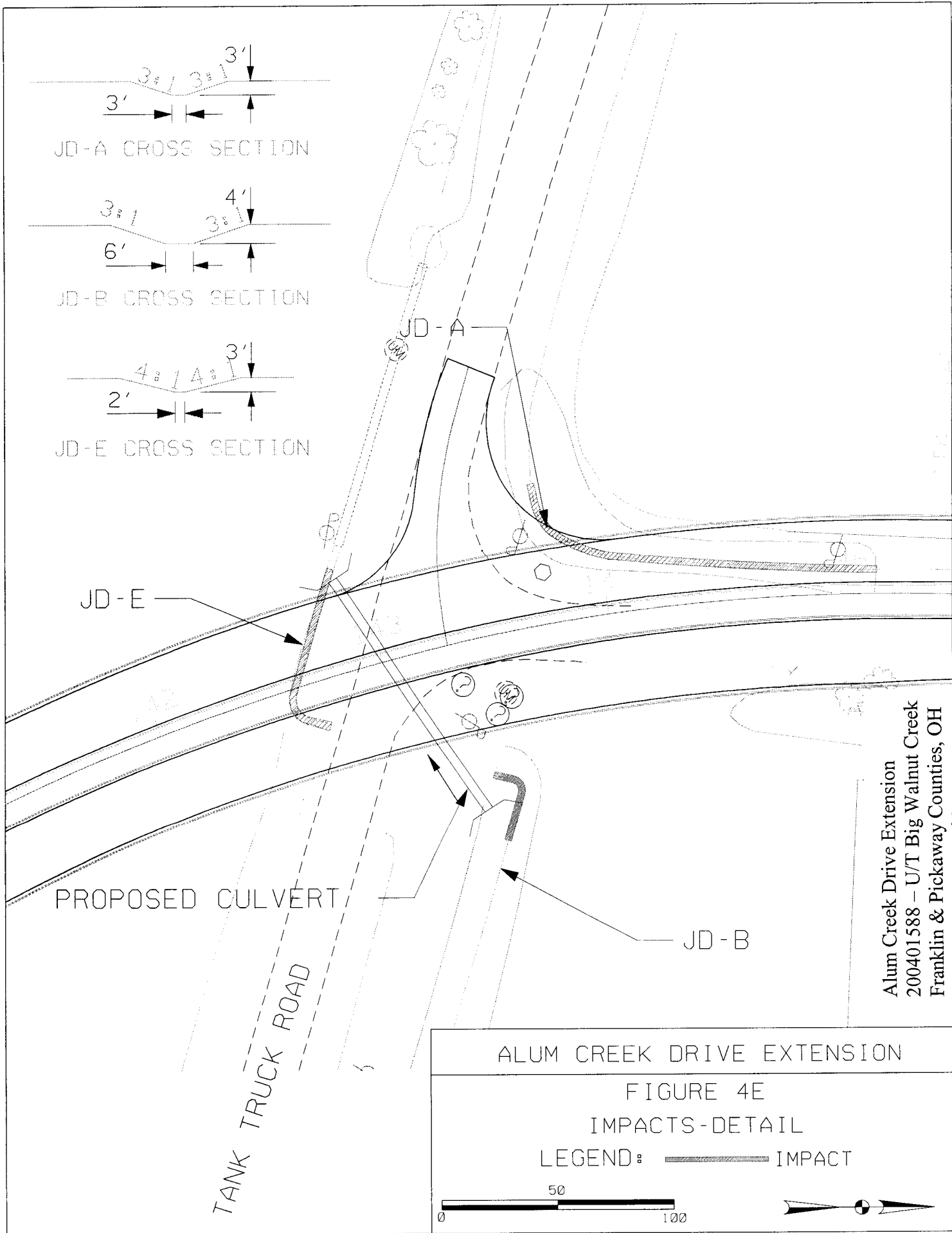




Alum Creek Drive Extension
 200401588 – U/T Big Walnut Creek
 Franklin & Pickaway Counties, OH
 Figure 4B, Sheet 6 of 9







Alum Creek Drive Extension
200401588 - U/T Big Walnut Creek
Franklin & Pickaway Counties, OH
Figure 4E, Sheet 9 of 9